(d) Nature Interpretation Centre should be established in each Tiger Reserve.

(e) Research and Monitoring should be strengthened:

The State Govrenments have been asked to take action in the matter. 100 per cent funding is provided for carrying Research and Monitoring programme.

(viii) Strengthening of Anti-poaching infrastructure and the Communications set up:

100 per cent central assistance is provided for purchase of weapons, wire-less sets and setting up of telephone network etc.

Statement

Measures taken by government to protect tiger population in the country.

(1) The Tiger is included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and hunting of and trade in tiger and its products is banned.

(2) The Tiger is included in Appendix I of the 'Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora', of which India is a member. Therefore there is total ban on international trade in tiger and its products.

(3) A network of 73 National Parks and 413 Sanctuaries has been established to protect wild animals and their habitats. These include 18 Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger.

(4) All human activities, other than those which are necessary for improvement of wildlife, are prohibited in the core areas of Tiger Reserves. The buffer areas are managed on scientific lines to improve their ecological productivity. This arrangement helps in minimising mantiger conflicts.

(5) A system of payment of compensation for the human deaths and livestock killing by tigers and panthers is being implemented.

(6) Government of India provides financial assistance to the State Governments for the management of National Parks and Sanctuaries, including Tiger Reserves.

(7) Financial assistance is also provided for control of poaching in areas outside National Parks and Sanctuaries.

(8) A system of cash rewards to persons providing intelligence regarding poachers and illegal traders has also been introduced.

(9) A scheme for ecodevelopment of villages around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves with the objective of socio-economic development of these villages compatible with the conservation of these protected areas is being implemented.

Setting up of Council for Medical and Laboratory Technologists

334. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fourteen member expert Committee had recommended that a Council for Medical Laboratory Technologists be set up, for proper recognition and working of the technologists concerned;

(b) if so, what are its major recommendations and by when are these likely to be implemented; and

(c) what are the reasons for long delay in setting up of the said council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) No fourteen member expert committee has recommended that a Council for Technologists be set up. However, the expert Committee on Health Manpower Planning, Production and Management, consisting of eight members, under the Chairmanship of Prof. J. S. Bajaj, has recommended the establishment of Councils for other categories of health professionals in the context of its recommendation for the establishment of an Education Commission for Health Sciences: this Committee has recommended the establishment of Councils for other categories of health professionals in case they are considered essential as a support mechanism for the Education Commission. However, the Com-

mittee has not made any separate or specific recommendation for setting up of a Council for Medical Laboratory Technologists.

Revision of interest rates on bank deposits

335. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rates of interest on different deposits with banks have been revised twice in the past;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof with steps taken to publicise this increase by concerned banks;

(c) whether Government also proposes to revise rates of interest on savings being collected through Post Offices; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The rates of interests on deposits from public in Scheduled Commercial Banks were revised on 13-4-1991 and again on 4-7-1991.

(b) The details of the revised rates of interest on deposit from public in Scheduled Commercial banks in force at present are given below :—

Period of Deposits	Rate of Interest per annum (%)
(1) 46 days to less than one year	9.00
(2) 1 year to less than 2 years	10.00
(3) 2 years to less than 3 years	11.00
(4) 3 years and above	13.00

The above rates are already in public knowledge.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected from the Department of Posts of the Government and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

336. [*Transferred to the 12th September, 1991*]

Investment offers from Japan

337. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the new Industrial Policy Government have under its consideration any proposals to open an establishment in Japan for a South Asian Business Publicity Centre to give wide publicity to smaller business and also to attract business tycoons of that country for investment in India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any investment offers from Japan have been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the terms on which the whole matter is being decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) India Investment Centre has an overseas office in Tokyo which looks after the promotion of foreign private investment in India.

(c) and (d) Foreign Investment offers are received from foreign companies from time to time and are disposed of in accordance with policy.

Setting up of an International Banking Corporation

338. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: